إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِندَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

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Edited by Ghulam Farid Malik, M. A.

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Earthquake Havoc in North East India

Or

Another Great Prophecy Fulfilled

(By Mirza Bashir Ahmad, M.A.)

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right and then to the left Then it seemed as if, adjusted on a huge lathe, the whole earth had been set whirling round and round by some invisible giant hand...I lost my senses; and when at last, after about half an hour, I regained conciousness a strange sight met my eyes: as far as eye could see, all was ruins and desolation It seemed to me as if I were no longer in Monghyr...The city was so much changed that I could no longer find out my own house, so I sat down on a mound and passed the whole night there. When day broke, I found that the whole city had been reduced to a vast heap of ruins!"

The Honourable Syed Abdul Aziz, Education Minister of Bihar, says:

"At one place, a stream full of water was flowing The ground clove open and swallowed up the whole stream, leaving its bed absolutely dry. A motor lorry, containing some passengers, was proceeding The earthquake came, and the lorry stopped and the passengers got out of it. Then a great chasm formed in the ground, and the lorry disappeared into this yawning hole. With the lorry in its belly the earth reclosed, so that no trace either of the vehicle or of the hole was left." (*Inqilab* February 2).

The Son-in-law of the Maharajah of Monghyr says:

> "The city of Monghyr, once so fine and so beautiful, now presents an awful spectacle. Except for the mounds of the ruins of the shops, nothing remains of it. While the exact number of those who have been killed in this catastrophe is not known, the general estimate that has so far been made places the number of the dead at 25,000. In the Municipal registers, so far, 12,000 names of those who have lost their lives have been recorded. Flocks of vultures and crows are to be seen busy tearing and feeding on the dead bodies. The whole town has become converted into one vast grave-yard which strikes terror into the heart of the beholder. I have no words in which to describe all that my eyes have seen"—(*Haqiqat*, Lucknow, January 1934).

In the issue of the *Milap*, dated January 13, 1934, the Editor of that paper writes:

> "The havoc wrought by the earthquake in the affected area is so great that not only one cannot describe it in

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words, but even history can offer no parallel to it. What has happened makes a heart-rending tale.....There was such an inundation of water that the Muslims there thought that the Flood of Noah had come. Those who were possessed of millions are camping in the open with no better roofs over their heads than sheets of cloth or blankets draped over bamboo poles."

Again :

" After an interval of twenty eight years India has again experienced a most terrible earthquake. The earthquake of 1905 had devastated the Kangra valley, while this present cataclysm has laid in ruins the province of Bihar and Orissa and the Nepal State. While the earthquake lasted, the houses uprooted from their very foundations, jumped into the air several feet high, and the waters of the wells shot up in long jets into the air, bringing with them such immense quantities of sand that a thick layer of it, which is several feet deep, has settled over the soil for miles around.

"The toll levied by death is frightful. Parents have lost their children and the children have lost their parents. In many instances, among the ruins of the fallen houses, small children were seen looking about for their lost parents. They would slightly raise this brick and then that and peep under it, as if they expected their parents to come out from beneath it and take them fondly in their arms. But death had laid its relentless hand on everything. Every time when, in the process of digging, a dead body came out such heart-rending cries and shrieks on the part of those bereaved would fill the air that profoundly touched one's heart and drew tears from one's eyes "—(The *Milap*, January 25).

Again :

" Those fields which, until the afternoon of the fateful 15th of January, were excellent for the cultivation of rice have now suddenly become transformed into deserts of sand, and it is highly improbable if they can ever be restored to their original condition of fertility. Now the problem is how are these poor cultivators, who entirely depended on these fields for their subsistence, to be helped, so that they may be able to earn their livelihood and start life anew. The misfortune of the town-folks who have suffered a shipwreck from the earthquake is indeed great, but the disaster of the poor tiller of the soil is even greater. He is left perfectly resourceless. At present over a lakh of acres of land is standing with sugarcane, but there are no mills to crush it,"—(The *Milap*, February 3).

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Again the Editor of the same paper writes :

"After touring for three days through the striken area, I can say from personal knowledge that the disaster that has befallen is incalculably greater than the reports of it so far appearing in the press would seem to indicate. What I have seen with my eyes is more than what I can describe in words. What a disaster ! what a calamity ! what a misfortune ! In the twinkling of an eye a vast area, about two hundred miles long and a hundred miles broad, has been laid in ruins. Thousands of years old civilizations and centuries old valuable monuments and precious relics have been wiped out of existence. Happy homes, pround and stately palaces that used to be full of the bustle of life and were wont to resound with the merry laughter of children, have all become converted into dusty heaps of ruins over which clouds of vultures and crows are hovering.

"Railway lines have become wrecked ; motor roads have broken up and become pitted with large holes and yawning chasms ; the fields of the husbandmen have turned into bogs ; about a thousand of the villages have become entirely cut off from all supply of water. During the earthquake most of the wells in the affected area became transformed into so many craters of volcanoes out of which quantities of sand and a kind of black mud discharged. At many places the ground has ripped open and huge chasms have formed into which cattle have fallen and been killed.

"The earthquake has wreaked its greatest fury on Monghyr, an old town founded by Raja Kiran, with narrow streets and narrow bazaars and with houses three or four storeys high. On the day when the catastrophe happened, numbers of men and women from the neighbouring villages had come to the town to make their purchases for the coming *Eid* festival, while the Hindus were busily making their preparations for the *Basant* festival. Suddenly a dreadful noise was heard which seemed to be proceeding from the interior of the earth, and which grew louder and louder until it seemed as if it would pierce and split the very drums of the ears. Then a violent trembling siezed the earth and the houses began to rock back and forth drunkenly. Soon loud crashing noises filled the air followed by thick clouds of dust. Every one stood transfixed with horror, unable to help either his neighbour or himself. After a few minutes, when the whirlwind had passed away and the situation had eased up a little, those who survived the shock looked round to find that all Monghyr had been reduced to ruins, and heard on all sides loud shriecks and moaning noises coming from under the *debris* of the fallen houses. These were the wailings of the

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victims who had been entrapped in the falling houses. In a few minutes, like the infernal noises of earthquake, these pitiful agonised lamentations ceased, for by this time the unfortunate victims had either been crushed to death or had passed off into unconsciousness.

"Then the digging operations comemnced All the victims whose dead bodies were dug out were found to be in the same attitude, the same posture, in which they happened to be at the moment when death had overtaken them. Thus the cyclist who was going along the bazaar was found sitting on his cycle, the mother was found giving bath to her baby with another baby holding in her lap, the shopkeeper was found holding his scales in his hand in the act of weighing something, while his customer stood before him--all now still in death.

"In all Northern Bihar, next to Monghyr, Muzaffarpur has suffered most heavily. It had a population of about 52,000 souls. In all the town only about a dozen of the houses remain standing. But these, too, have been badly damaged ..... So far, about three thousand corpses have been extricated from the *debris* The process of digging still continues.

"Many people have related that at first a mild vibration was felt, and then, following it, a great noise was heard coming from the interior of the earth, which seemed to resemble the whirring noise of an aeroplane. The noise waxed louder and louder, and then there were deafening detonations like the explosions of bombs. Then, on every side, the houses began to collapse with crashing noises accompanied by the most piteous lamentations of the sufferers who had become entrapped under the falling houses. Under the shops and the houses, as also in the roadways, the ground clove open, as a result of which water gushed out of the earth, accompanied with immense quantities of sand Similar holes also appeared in the rural areas, where in some cases, the water shot up into the air to a height of from five to seven feet.

"In Jangpur, although full seven days have elapsed since the catastrophe occurred, people are still going about in boats in the streets and bazaars. The same is the case of Sitamarhi, and of Motihari which are equally waterlogged. Strange changes have taken place. All is water where all

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was land before; rich people, whose coffers were full of gold and who lived in palatial houses, are now reduced to want and compelled to pass their nights wrapped in coarse, old, and ragged sack-cloth. Many families have become totally extinct." (The *Milap*, January 28).

Again the same paper in its issue of January 26, gives the following account as related by an eye-witness :

"In the space of two or three minutes all was dark from the clouds of dust from the falling houses, so that nothing could be seen. The earth rocked, shook, trembled, and huge chasms and fissures were constantly appearing in the ground on all sides, as if some invisible hand were clipping it with a huge pair of scissors. Out of these holes and fissures, large springs of water came gushing out and deluged the whole countryside. The houses came down with deafening noises, and those who had not already been killed, ran hither and thither like mad men, trying to save their lives. But there was nowhere to go to. All was water, and everywhere the ground kept yawning open, and more and yet more water poured out from the interiors of the earth.

"It seemed as if the world were coming to an end. The whole city lay in ruins. The roads had been torn and rent and all marked by large pits and cavernous holes. Whole families had become wiped out. Those who until to-day had been rolling in riches have now become reduced to utter penury "(The *Milap*, January 26).

The *Zamindar*, dated February 3, writes:

"Since last evening, Monghyr has been experiencing heavy rains. This has greatly added to the miseries of the inhabitants of this ill-starred city. They are at present in sore straits. They have neither any clothing of ordinary wear nor any coverlets or blankets for use at night. In view of this state of things, some of the people have been heard to say : "Why did we not die too ? Death is far preferable to a life of this kind. O God, give us death."

The *Milap*, dated January 31, writes:

"Since last night, deluges of rain have been falling in Muzaffarpur and Patna. Thousands of people, who have been lying by the road-side overnight, are soaked to the skin and are shivering with cold. The sky continues to be overcast and lowering and there seem yet no signs of the rain stopping."

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The *Prakash* of Lahore, dated January 28, writes :

"This earthquake is entirely unparalleled in the history of India. Clearly, it was a visitation of Heaven rather than an earthquake."

The *Ahl-i-Hadis* of Amritsar, in its issue of February 9, 1934, writes :

"Of truth, had our Holy Prophet, (may peace and countless blessings of God be upon him!), not been the last of the world's Prophets, and had it been possible under the Islamic Law, for another Prophet to appear in our times, the terrible earthquake of Bihar would have, in the new book revealed upon him, been mentioned among great divine visitations, such as those which overtook the people of Ad, of Samud, and the Pharaoh and his people."

In the course of his statement in the Legislative Assembly on the earthquake disaster, Sir Harry Haig, Home Member to the Government of India, said :

"No estimate can be framed of the total cost of replacement of or repairs to these buildings but the Governor has stated that in one town alone Government buildings of the value of Rs. 30 lakhs are said to be in ruins. There is also a very severe damage done to the railways and in particular to the E. I. R. settlement and the workshops at Jamalpur. The expenditure necessary to repair the damage at Jamalpur is estimated at not less than Rs. 50 lakhs.

"Local bodies (District Boards and Municipalities) have also suffered heavy loss, owing to destruction of dispensaries, hospitals and schools, as well as owing to damage done to roads and bridges.

"Of the total damage caused to private property in towns it is impossible to give an estimate, but, as I have stated before, the total destruction of houses in Monghyr and in three chief towns of North Bihar is very heavy.

"It is also not possible to give even an approximate estimate of the damage to agricultural lands. In some places grey mud and sand has erupted and to what extent this will affect the future fertility of the land cannot at present be estimated, nor is it possible to give an estimate of the damage to standing crops which is more serious in view of the fact

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that in much of the affected area the paddy crop has been destroyed by floods.

"The most serious blow to cultivation at the moment probably arises from the destruction of sugar factories. As His Excellency the Governor pointed out, the three districts affected contain about 200,000 acres of sugarcane, producing two and a quarter million tons of cane. At least half the mills which deal with cane have been put out of action. This creates a serious problem for the cultivators." (*The Civil & Military Gazette*, Lahore, January 26.)

In the course of his appeal for the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund, the Governor of Bihar said :

" It will convey some idea of the extent of the area affected by the earthquake if I say that the area of greatest destruction is as large as the whole of Scotland and supports five times its population and does not include those parts of Bihar lying to the south of the Ganges, where loss of life and damage to property was on a lesser scale.

" In the towns of North Bihar there is probably not one masonry house which is altogether undamaged, while thousands of houses are completely destroyed, with not a wall standing. In one congested bazaar of Monghyr the ruin was so complete that for days it was not possible to see where lines of streets had been amid areas of destroyed houses.

" Some thousands of lives have been lost and those thousands might well have been tens of thousands if the shock had been at night instead of at mid-day. The urban population affected is not less than half a million souls, some of the towns having a population of from 50,000 to 60,000 while altogether there were 12 towns, with between 10,000 and 60,000 inhabitants that have been wrecked.

" Soldiers, who have flown over Bihar, liken it to a battlefield in the destruction of land. Over a large area ryots have had their lands spoiled by fountains of water which poured out from the fissures and gushers and spread over fields sand to a depth, varying from a few inches to three feet or even more .....The full extent of this damage to some of the most fertile territory of India will not be known for a long time, but in the part which has been visited by the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries their estimate is that over an area of 2,000 squaremiles near Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga one-half of the land has been affected in this way and in one-sixth deposit of sand is very deep. Air reconnaissance has shown

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that this damage is also found in fields of North Bhagalpur and in Purnea District and is not confined to the part already inspected.

"Over the whole of Northern Bihar communications have been shattered. Roads and railways are damaged.

"There is a further danger which at the present time is not calculable. It is known that the earthquake has at many places changed the level of the country. Roads are found to be now reduced to the level of the surrounding country, old waterways are not functioning and streams have changed their courses" (*The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, January 26).

Lord Reading, who in the course of his speech showed evident emotion, described the catastrophe as the most appalling earthquake that had ever visited India and said that it was almost impossible really to picture for the people of Britain what had happened.

Now, do not all these accounts contained in the above extracts clearly prove this Bihar earthquake to have been one of the world's biggest calamities of which history has preserved any record? Has it not happened in its minutest details quite in conformity with the description of it as contained in the prophecies of the Promised Messiah which he had announced to the world and published in his writings full twenty-eight years ago? Does it not bear witness to God's omnipotence as well as to the truth of His holy Messenger whom He raised for the regeneration of mankind in these days? O wise men, ponder over these things and pay heed to God's warnings.

The Earthquake was to happen shortly after Nadir Shah's death

Another characteristic feature of this earthquake is, as has been stated before, that God's revelation had laid it down that it would happen shortly after the assassination of King Nadir Shah of Afghanistan God's revelation to His Messiah and Mahdi, received on May 3, 1905, reads: "Ah! where is Nadir Shah gone?" (*Badr*, 1905, No. 4) This prophecy, as His Holiness the

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Khalifatul Masih, the Holy Head of the Ahmadiyya Community, in the course of a remarkably lucid article devoted exclusively to the subject of this prophecy, published just recently in a tract form and widely circulated throughout the world, has explained it in its relation to other revelations of the Promised Messiah, foretold that King Nadir Shah would come to an untimely end. This prophecy met with a remarkable fulfilment on November 8, 1933, when the Afghan King was suddenly assassinated by a young man and the whole of Afghanistan was plunged into mourning Now as the revelations relating to this earthquake were received after the revelation concerning the Afghan King's death, it clearly follows that it was to take place subsequent to that event The first revelation to come after the 3rd of May, 1905, relating to the earthquake in question, runs as follows: "Again, with the coming of Spring God's revelation will be fulfilled (*Badr*, 1905, No 6)" This revelation was received on the 9th of May, that is, six days after the prophecy which predicted the death of the King of the Afghans. That this revelation relates to some earthquake is proved by the following comment of the Promised Messiah, which he made regarding it:

> "The last earthquake having occurred in the spring season, God in this revelation informs me that this second earthquake will also happen about the same time of the year" *Alwasiyyat*, (Edition 1905 p. 14).

Then again on the same day this second revelation was received: "They ask if this news regarding an earthquake is really true. Tell them 'By God it shall happen even as God's word foretells.'" (*Badr*, 1905, No. 6). Then again, next day, on the 10th May, 1905 : 'Will this divine visitation really materialise'? If so, what will its extent be?" This revelation also, beyond all doubt, relates to an earthquake, and it was for this reason that after the Promised Messiah had announced it to the world, many of his opponents often inquired of him as to whether this earthquake prophecied by him was really going to take place, and wanted to know the details of the coming event and some distinctive marks by which it would be

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characterized (*vide* Epilogue to *Brahin-i-Ahmadiyya*, Part V, pp. 90 and 91). Then on May, 22, this revelation was received: "We have fulfilled your dream, and this is how We always reward Our righteous servants." (*Badr*, 1905, No. 7.) This revelation as the Promised Messiah has described, relates to an earthquake. Says he:

> "In connection with my prophecy regarding an earthquake, I have received to-day at five o'clock in the morning this fresh revelation," that is, the revelation that has just been quoted above (*Badar*, Vol. 5, No. 7).

Then on May, 23, 1905: "The earth shall be turned upside down Of a sudden shall I come with my armies to establish your truth."

All these prophecies relate to the promised earthquake and are closely connected one with the other like so many links of a chain; then all together they stand in an equally close relationship with the prophecy "Ah! where is Nadir Shah gone?" This shows that it was foreordained that the assassination of Nadir Shah and this catastrophic earthquake will follow one another. A careful consideration of all the facts of the case cannot fail to convince any fair-minded person that such widely dissimilar events, having no manner of connection at all one with the other, and transpiring in places so far-flung from each other, could not have happened exactly as they had been foretold eight and twenty years ago, unless the knowledge regarding them had proceeded from a divine source. No mortal eye, as divorced from the foreknowledge which is given by God to His holy Messengers alone, can see and lay bare what lies in the future These predictions did not proceed from a guess, nor the connection between the events mentioned in them was adventitious It was God Who had informed the Promised Messiah beforehand regarding these events, and it was His eternal will that had interconnected them in the sequence of time in which they have both come off.

The Earthquake was Decreed to Occur in Spring

The third characteristic feature of this earthquake as mentioned in the prophecies of the Promised Messiah is that it

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was to happen some time in Spring In this regard the following prophecy, which has already been quoted before, should be noted : " Again, with the coming of the Spring, God's Word will be fulfilled " Explaining this prophecy, the Promised Messiah writes :

> " Since the last earthquake which occurred on April 4, 1905, came in the spring season, God's revelation informs me that this second earthquake will also take place in the same season. Spring, properly speaking, begins towards the end of Jan., when leaves begin to appear on trees, and lasts up to the end of May. Therefore, the period of danger begins with the month of January. I cannot, however, say with any degree of definiteness whether the earthquake spoken of in the revelation will occur during the spring that follows this present cold weather or in the course of some future spring season. But whenever it takes place one thing is absolutely certain, namely, that it must happen within the period specified in the revelation." (*Alwasiyyat* page 14).

Now mark in what clear terms the Promised Messiah has explained that the earthquake foretold by the revelation would take place in the spring season. He has further cleared the point as to the particular year in whose spring the earthquake would fall He says that the earthquake might occur in the spring season of any year. But yet, as I have explained before, the prophecy did, in a way, contain a clear specification of the particular spring that was meant : the earthquake prophecied in God's revelation was to happen in the spring season immediately following the assassination of Nadir Shah. Now every unprejudiced person will admit that the recent Bihar earthquake, which occurred on the 15th of January last exactly in the beginning of the spring season, has in the most wonderful manner fulfilled the prophecy of the Promised Messiah.

There is another point that deserves to be noted. The tragedy of the Bihar earthquake was enacted in mid-January, while the Promised Messiah, in the passage reproduced above places the commencement of the spring season towards the end of January. But it must be borne in mind the Promised Messiah speaks from the point of view of the Punjab seasons, where the winter is longer and is marked by a greater intensity of

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cold than it is in the eastern or the southern parts of the country. Bihar lies in North-east India where winter is milder and of a shorter duration, and consequently, the spring season there sets in earlier. Hence the words of the prophecy are perfectly true and the catastrophe did happen in spring. What is more, the Promised Messiah himself practically makes the whole of the month of January as falling within the spring season when he says that "the period of danger begins with the month of January. (*Alwasiyyat*, page 14).

There is yet another factor which adds to the singularity and wonderfulness of this prophecy. It is this. On February 28, 1906, a few days after this revelation had been received, a mild earthquake shock was experienced. As this shock had also occurred in the spring season and the prophecy could be applied to it, the Promised Messiah announced the prophecy as having been fulfilled At this, God sent down this revelation : "The earthquake is to come," (*vide* a hand-bill regarding earthquake, dated March 1, 1906). On this revelation the Promised Messiah made this comment : "The earthquake that occurred on the 28th of February last must not be regarded as being the earthquake which has been prophecied in God's revelation. This severe catastrophe is yet to come" Then he goes on to say, "This interpretation which I have put on the revelation in question is not from myself. It is God who has inspired it in my mind," (*vide Badr*, Vol. II, No. 2, and a hand-bill regarding earthquake, March, 1906). In short, this Bihar earthquake, occurring as it has done exactly in the beginning of spring, when in Bengal and Bihar the trees were just putting forth their new and tender leaves, and following as it has done the assassination of King Nadir Shah of Afghanistan, has fulfilled the prophecy of the Promised Messiah in a most wonderful way. Will the sincere truth seeker ponder over this wonderful testimony of God to the truth of His Messiah and Mahdi and accept him ?

North-east India as the Scene of Earthquake in God's Revelation

The fourth characteristic feature of this earthquake as laid down in God's revelation is that it was to occur in the North-

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eastern part of India. In this connection the following dream of the Promised Messiah, which was published 'ull twenty-eight years ago, on April 20, 1907, should be noted : " I saw in dream Bashir Ahmed [that is myself, the writer of these lines] standing who, pointing with his finger towards the North-east, said, ' The earthquake has gone in this direction," (*vide Badr.* Vol II, No 18)

This makes the point as clear as day-light. The words of the dream evidently mean that the next severe earthquake to occur in this country, after that of 1905, occurring in the North-west of India, would take place i the North-eastern part of the country. The expression " has gone " denotes a contrast of directions and means that whereas the last earthquake occurred in the North-west of India the next would come in the opposite part of the country, namely, the North-east of India. In ther words, it implies a change of scene of the catastrophe.

In regard to this characteristic mark, too, this Bihar earthquake has literally fulfilled the prophecy of the Promised Messiah. Every one, who has even the rudimentary knowledge of the geography of the country, knows that the valley of Kangra, which was destroyed by the earthquake of 1905, is situated in the North-west of India, while Bihar, and Orissa and the Nepal State where this earthquake, occurring on the 15th of January last, wrought its greatest destruction, lie in the North-east of India. Although in itself it is too patent a fact to need any proof, yet for the sake of being exact I give below a few extracts from the press in proof of this point.

> " The newspaper reports suggesting Assam as the centre of the earthquake on January 15 appear to have originated from the fact that the majority of earthquake shocks felt locally in North-east India during the last few decades had their seat of activity in Assam ..... The instrumental observations fix the centre of the earthquake near latitude 26¼ North and longitude 85½ East (*Civil & Military Gazette*, January 23, 1934).

The Statesman, dated January 24, says:

> " On the basis of a very long experience we are convinced that the epicentre of the earthquake of North-east India is in Assam."

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The Sarfraz of Lucknow, dated January 21, says :

> "The epicentre of the earthquake of 1905 lay in the valley of Kangra, North-west India ..... The epicentre of this present earthquake of 1934 is generally believed to lie in North-east India."

In short, the prophecy of the Promised Messiah that the future great earthquake in India would occur in the North-east of the country has met with so complete a fulfilment that no one who has eyes to see, ears to hear and even a modicum of commonsense can deny it.

Fifth Distinctive Feature

The fifth distinctive feature of this earthquake is that it was to occur in the lifetime of Mirza Bashir Ahmed (that is, myself) who was to be the first to draw the attention of the people to the prophecy of the Promised Messiah regarding it. This fact is proved by the dream of the Promised Messiah, which has already been quoted, wherein he saw me pointing towards the North-east and then heard me say : "The earthquake has gone in this direction." This part of the prophecy has been equally fulfilled. Life is an uncertain thing, and death has no appointed time to come. One may die at any moment. No one can guarantee about himself or about any other person that he will live to see such and such event happen. It was clearly the All-Knowing and All-Seeing God who twenty-seven years ago informed His Messiah and Mahdi that in the North-east of India a terrible earthquake would occur in the lifetime of his son, Mirza Bashir Ahmed, and that he would be the first to recall the prophecy regarding it. Twenty-seven years is a long period, but God allowed me to live to see the fulfilment of His Word. The way in which after the happening of this earthquake my mind has been diverted to the prophecy in question is no less singular. The earthquake had occurred and for fifteen days its reports had been appearing in the press. Then one night it so happened that I went to bed but could not sleep. Being generally a good sleeper, I could not account for this sleeplessness. However, to make the time pass, I took a collection of the prophecies of the Promised Messiah, entitled

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Albushra, and began to read it. I went on reading until four in the morning and finished the whole book. Towards its end, I came across that dream of the Promised Messiah regarding an earthquake in which my name occurs and which has been quoted above. I read it but its applicability to this Bihar earthquake did not strike me at that time at all. At last, closing the book, I lay down again and slept until morning. During the day, however, my mind reverted to this dream and, like a flash of lightning, its connection with this earthquake became clear to me. Upon this I carefully studied it in all its bearings until I was quite satisfied that it really related to this earthquake. Then I mentioned my opinion to Hazrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib, and to some other friends who were all surprised at this discovery and all believed that it applied to this earthquake. Then finally I told of this dream to His Holiness the Khalifatul Masih who also had no doubt as to its applicability to this earthquake. His Holiness then told me to write on this subject and draw the attention of the public to the fulfilment of this prophecy just as the dream of the Promised Messiah says that I would.

There is yet another point in the above dream of the Promised Messiah which must be noted. The fact that he saw me pointing in the direction of North-east while he himself was apparently unconcerned with the question of the earthquake and the direction in which it had gone shows that the earthquake was to happen after his death This view is strengthened by several other revelations of his which contain a clear indication of this being the case. For example, on 9th March, he had this revelation: "O God, do not let me see this terrible earthquake" (*Badr* 1906, No. 11.) And so it occurred after his death. He did not live to see it.

Now this fifth characteristic feature of the earthquake has also been completely fulfilled. As was foretold in the revelation, I have been the first to notice the prophecy of the Promised Messiah concerning this earthquake and the first to draw the attention of the public towards it.

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To sum up, this Bihar earthquake marks the fulfilment of a great prophecy of God's Messiah and Mahdi, and constitutes a remarkable Heavenly sign in his favour. We are not jubilant over world's sufferings. We fully sympathise with every one who has in any way been affected by this catastrophe We sympathise with every person who has been rendered homeless, with every father who has lost his children, with every husband who has lost his wife, with every wife who has lost her husband, with every son who has lost his father or his mother, with every brother who has lost his brother and with every friend who has lost his friend. We Ahmedis are ever ready, and consider it our religious duty, to give our sympathies every practial expression in our power, in fact more so than other people. At the same time, however, we consider it equally our sacred duty to let the world know whenever any Heavenly sign appears in the world so that people may ponder over it and accept him whom God has raised as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi in these days God sent him as a blessing for the world, but alas ! the world was blind and refused to acknowledge him and accept him. Instead of heeding his voice they scoffed at him, they ridiculed him and tried to do him all the harm in their power. Then in accordance with His eternal promise, God descended upon the earth with His mighty hosts He revealed to the Promised Messiah : " I shall show you the flash of my signs and shall manifest my power by exalting you. A warner appeared in the world, but the world accepted him not ; God, however, will accept him and establish his truth with mighty signs."

Now my friends, God has made His appearance in the world in all His power and glory. He is holding His blessings in one hand and His chastisements in the other. He will bless those who accept His Messenger and walk in the way of righteousness and obedience, and He will chastise those who are heedless, who refuse to accept His Messenger and who try to oppose him, and who walk not in the way of righteousness. It is up to you now to decide whether you will have God's blessings or draw down His punishments upon your heads.

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Remember, God has promised His Messiah and Mahdi to show His mighty signs in the world, and these mighty signs are bound to take place. No one can ward them off. He is indeed a foolish person, who witnesses God's signs happening in the world but heeds them not and continues to refuse to accept His Messenger. God has declared that He shall send His inflictions and His chastisments in all parts of the world in such quick succession that men will tremble with mortal fear and wonder whether the earth is any longer a safe place to live on. Therefore, before it is your turn to experience God's chastisement, take a warning and win His pleasure and His blessings. Remember, after centuries of anxious waiting God has now at last raised His Messenger in the world to resurrect the dead earth. He who tries to oppose His Messenger or refuses to accept him tries to oppose God's purpose and shall fall under His judgment. Do not, therefore, oppose God's purpose. Do not give up God and His Messenger for the sake of wordly possessions, worldly relationships, connections and friendships. Remember, worldly ties and worldly goods are not lasting things and you are bound at last to lose them one day. The time is soon coming when you will appear before your God and required to render an account of all your actions in this life. God has manifested great signs and has shown as to who are following the right path and are His chosen servants. Will you still refuse to open your eyes? By this mighty sign God has proved that He is a living God and that they lie who say He does not exist, as also lie they who say Islam is not the true living religion of the true living God or that Ahmad of Qadian was not the Messiah and Mahdi whom God had raised in these days for the regeneration of the world. Will you refuse to aceept God's own testimony? O people of Bihar, O people of Bengal and O people of Nepal, remember, you are particularly answerable before God for you have witnessed with your own eyes the chastisement of God falling on your towns, cities and villages and their ruins are still lying before your eyes. You have seen the manifestation of God's wrath in your midst. So take your warning while it is yet time. Repent, so that God may show you His mercy. God's

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mercy is infinite and is predominant over His wrath. It is His eternal law that He follows the manifestation of His wrath with the display of His mercy Having witnessed His wrath, make yourselves deserving of His mercy.

O our fellow-Muslim brethren who have not yet accepted the Promised Messiah and Mahdi of the age, O follwers of the Prophet of Nazareth, O our Hindu fellow-countrymen, and O you all who follow any religion, just consider that had the Promised Messiah been false in his claims, that is, had he not been a Mahdi for the Muslims, a Christ for the Christians, a Krishna for the Hindus and the Promised One for all the other nations the very fact of his being a liar would have brought about his speedy destruction, for it is a divine law that God loses no time in making a short work of a false claimant. A false claim to being God's elect carries its own doom with it and requires no outside opposition or persecution to destroy it But you find that instead of perishing, the Movement founded by him is, despite all opposition, steadily progressing and gaining in strength. In every field of activity it is through God's grace and help, proving victorious and successful while its enemies and its antagonists suffer defeat and are the losers in every encounter. It was a small, tender plant which God's own hand had set in the soil. He announced to the world that He would protect it and would not suffer it to be destroyed. So it grew and grew and prospered and progressed It is now quite a young little tree and is daily growing in vigour and strength. It is under the protection of the great Gardener and no adverse winds or hostile tempests can do it any harm. He is indeed fortunate who succeeds in recognizing this tree and strives to partake of its fruit, for it is this fruit which gives perpetual life. Try to acquire this fruit, O ye people, and enter into the Paradise everlasting. And our last discourse is that all praise belongs to Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe.

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THE BIHAR GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNIQUE REGARDING THE EARTHQUAKE

The following is the text of the Bihar Governor's appeal for the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund :

" In the early days after the earthquake on January 15, it was not possible to give any proper appreciation of the catastrophe which had fallen on Bihar and even after two weeks I can only surmise in general terms the effect of what Dr. Dunn, of the Geological Survey of India, *declares to have been one of the biggest and most extensive earthquakes in history*. The tremors extended far beyond the province of Bihar and Orissa, but the scene of greatest destruction was that part of Bihar which lies north of the Ganges and the towns adjoining that area on the southern bank of the river. It will convey some idea of the extent if I say that the area of greatest destruction described above is as large as the whole of Scotland and supports five times the population of Scotland and does not include those parts of Bihar lying south of the Ganges where the loss of life and damage to property was lesser in scale.

" In the towns of North Bihar there is probably not one masonry house which is altogether undamaged, while thousands of houses are completely destroyed with not a wall standing. In one congested bazaar in Monghyr the ruin was so complete that for days it was not possible to see where the lines of streets had been amid acres of destroyed houses. Some thousands of lives have been lost and those thousands might well have been tens of thousands if the shock had been during the night instead of mid-day. The urban population affected is not less than half a million of souls, some of the towns having a population of from 50 to 60 thousand, while altogether there were twelve towns with between 10,000 and 60,000 inhabitants which have been wrecked.

Camping in Open

" The people of these towns are for the most part camping on the open spaces close to the towns in grass and bamboo

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sheds or any other makeshift shelter and must continue so to exist for months to come till money and materials are made available for them to rebuild their homes. The towns-people who are in greatest distress are mostly small shopkeepers and the people of the professional classes. The richer men have some reserves to fall back upon ; the artisans and labourers will have work in plenty at remunerative rates, but the large majority of the middle class people who have escaped with little but their lives must have substantial help to rebuild their homes and start life again. There is no lack of medical aid. Warm clothing and medical comforts have been generously subscribed and are being distributed on a large scale.

"Assistance for the relief of immediate distress has come from all sides and from all classes, but there remains the most urgent need for money to raise up the towns of Bihar again from their ruins In the villages the destruction of houses was not very severe. Mud-built huts have survived ; where there was masonry they have collapsed and the disaster to the agriculturist takes a different form.

Lands Spoiled

"Soldiers who have flown over Bihar liken it to a battlefield. Over a large area the ryots have had their lands spoiled by fountains of water which poured out from fissures and gushers spread over the fields sand to a depth varying from a few inches to three feet or even more. The full extent of this damage to some of the most fertile territory of India has not been known for a long time, but in the part which has been visited by the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries their estimate is that over an area of 2,000 square miles near Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, one half of the land has been affected in this way, and in one-sixth the deposit of sand is deepest.

"Air reconnaissance has shown that this damage is also found in the fields of North Bhagalpur and in Purnea district and is not confined to the part already inspected. Over the whole of

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Bihar communications have been shattered. Roads and railways are so damaged that the outlying parts can only be reached on foot or by bicycle or by bullock-cart, and it will be impossible to restore reliable communications even with towns like Sitamarhi for months to come.

"There is a further danger which at the present time is not calculable. It is known that the earthquake has in many places changed the level of the country. Embanked roads are found to be now reduced to the level of the surrounding country, the old waterways are not functioning and the streams have changed their course. Where land is still in a deltaic condition as in North Bihar even a slight change of levels completely alter the drainage of the country and it becomes almost certain that the next monsoon will cause severe inundation over tracts of land formerly immune from flood.

Millowners' Loss

"The section of the community that has suffered very severely outside the towns includes the sugarcane-growers and sugar millowners. Sugar has taken the place of indigo in North Bihar and the factories which flourished in the indigo days have now turned completely to sugarcane. The factories, with their bungalows, have been destroyed; seven large mills have fallen and the growing crop of 15,000,000 maunds (roughly half a million tons) of cane, which these factories would have taken, has to be written off largely as loss.

"To enumerate other losses due to the cataclysm would take too much space and is not necessary for the object I have in view, namely, to induce the people of India and abroad to appreciate the vastness of the distress caused and the damage to be repaired. Reconstruction cannot be effected in periods of weeks or months, but will extend over years and is only at all possible with the most liberal help of the charitably-minded throughout the length and breadth of India and beyond. *For the reconstruction of Tokyo and Yokohama ten years ago an equivalent of Rs. 80 crores was spent and the need of Bihar is not to be measured in lakhs.* Unless the fullest possible support from all sides is given to the Viceroy's Fund for the restoration of Bihar, it must remain a striken country for many years to come.

The Ahmadiyya Movement

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THE Ahmadiyya Movement was founded by Hazrat Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mehdi and the expected Messenger of all nations. In the spirit and power of all the earlier prophets he came to serve and reinterpret the final and eternal teachings laid down by God in the Holy Quran. The Movement therefore represents the true and real Islam and seeks to uplift humanity and establish peace throughout the world. Hazrat Ahmad died in 1908, and the present Head of the Movement is his second successor, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, under whose direction the Movement has established Missions in many parts of the world, the following being the addresses of some of them:

(1) THE LONDON MOSQUE, 63, Melrose Road,
Southfields, London, S. W. 18, England.

(2) THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM,
Sufi M. R. Bengalee, M.A.,
56 E, Congress St., Suite 1307,
Chicago, Illinois, U. S. America.

(3) THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT,
Commercial Road, Salt Pond,
Gold Coast, West Africa.

(4) THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT,
Rose Hill, Mauritius.

(5) THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT,
25-27, Alof Street, Okepopo, Lagos,
Nigeria, W. Africa.

(6) THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT,
Box No. 305, G. P. O.
Perth, W. Australia.

(7) THE CENTRAL (E.A.) AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM ASSOCIATION,
P. O. Box No. 554, Nairobi
(Kenya Colony.)

(8) MAULVI ABUL 'ATA, Maulvi Fazil,
Sharial Burj, Haifa, Palestine,

(9) MAULVI RAHMAT ALI, Oetœsan Ahmadiah,
Defensielijn V/d Bosch, No. 139, Batavia Centrum, Java.

10) MAULVI MOHD. SADIQ, H.A., Oetœsan Ahmadiah,.
Padang—(Sumatra)

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بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

نحمدہ ونصلی علی رسولہ الکریم

In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent and the most Merciful.
We praise Him and invoke His blessings upon
His exalted Prophet.

"A Prophet came unto the world and the world accepted him not, but God shall accept him and establish his truth with mighty signs."

*EARTHQUAKE HAVOC IN NORTH-EAST INDIA
Or
ANOTHER GREAT PROPHECY FULFILLED

(BY MIRZA BASHIR AHMAD, M.A.)

The Prophets' Advent always Attended with Signs

It is an immutable divine law that whenever, for the regeneration of mankind, God raises a Prophet or sends a Messenger in the world, He causes a variety of heavenly signs and preternatural events to take place in different parts of the world so that they may serve as evidences of the truth of His apostle and help seekers after truth in finding their way to the right path.

These signs are of two kinds : (1) those that are in the nature of Divine favours and blessings, and (2) those that represent calamities and visitations from Heaven. These latter befall mankind not because God's holy apostles happen in any way to

*Translated into English by Mr. M. H. Taj.

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be the bringers of misfortune in the world, for they are blessed in their persons and bring nothing but blessings to mankind, but because people reject them, oppose them, persecute them and hold them up to ridicule. God says in the Holy Quran : " Alas for people, that every time We send a messenger among them they denounce him as a liar and hold him up to ridicule." It is for this reason, and no other, that every divine teacher who appears in the world is accompanied both with blessings and with judgments of Heaven. But since God's mercy is infinite and all-encompassing and is predominant over His wrath, His punishments only work within certain specified limits and are subject to many restrictions. God's holy Word says : " God will not chastise a people so long as they feel repentance for their sins and ask pardon of Him for them." And again : " We do not chastise until we have first raised a warner."

It is thus a divine law that when sin, iniquity, and transgression become rampant in the world, God sends an admonisher and gives the people a chance to mend their ways and to conform themselves to the teaching of God's holy apostle. But if they fail to take heed, God's visitations overtake them in sundry ways and destroy them. Sometimes, in accordance with the same law, it so happens that in different parts of the world, through their own iniquities and misdeeds, people become deserving of divine judgments, but God withholds His punishments till such time as He has raised an apostle. And when that apostle has made his appearance, chastisements, which have been long overdue, at once overtake them. Besides thus punishing those who merited His punishments, these visitations serve to warn the world in general and to draw its attention to His Messenger. Often, in order to afford an additional proof to prove his truth, God informs His apostle beforehand that a certain thing will take place in a certain part of the world. In brief, it is an eternal divine law that the advent of a Prophet is accompained by the descent on mankind of God's favours and blessings and His wrath and displeasure. The signs showing God's wrath as I have already

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said, appear alike in places where the preachings of God's messenger have reached and where the guilt of the people consequent on their rejection of the same, has become established in the sight of God, as in places where they have not yet reached and where the people have not yet incurred any accountabilities in respect thereof. In either case, these signs constitute a testimony of heaven to the truth of His apostle whom, more often than not, He vouchsafes a foreknowledge of these events, a fact which all the more enhances their importance.

Signs Promised to the Promised Messiah

Now, in accordance with this same law of which mention has been made above, when about fifty years ago God raised His Prophet, the late Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, for the regeneration of the nations of the earth, giving him the names of all the world's prominent prophets and apostles of bygone times, He manifested in his favour both of these kinds of signs. He blessed him and his followers in the most extraordinary manner, and has further promised that He will cause all kinds of spiritual and material blessings to descend on those who will accept him and faithfully follow his teachings ; that He will so strengthen them that from a weak and slender sapling they will grow up into a gigantic tree, a tree whose roots will be firmly embedded in the soil below, while its branches will soar so high as to kiss the clouds above, towering over all other trees and so overshadowing them as to make them appear like small stunted growth beside it. But this tree is not an exotic growth : it is the self-same tree as was planted and nurtured by the Prophet of Islam thirteen hundred and fifty years ago. Despite all this, however, as has always been the case ever since the world began, a fact which has already been pointed out before, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi was also destined to be rejected by many, for God had informed him at the very beginning of his mission : " I will show the flash of my signs and I will exalt you most miraculously. A warner appeared in the world, but the world accepted him

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not. God, however, will accept him and establish his truth with mighty signs." (*Braheen-i-Ahmadiyya*, Part IV.)

Particularity of Earthquakes in Latter Days

These mighty signs, these powerful onslaughts of Heaven, which were destined to take place in the time of the Promised Messiah, were to take diverse forms. The Holy Quran and other religious scriptures, however, point to the fact that they would visit the earth particularly in the form of earthquakes. In the New Testament, referring to his second coming towards the last days of the world Jesus says: "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Matth. 24 : 7). Similarly the Holy Quran says: "I swear by the angelic hosts who are charged with these matters, that a terrible shaking will come over the earth, and earthquake will follow earthquake until men will tremble with fear, their eyes will be downcast and they durst not look up" (79 : 1). The Traditions also refer to earthquakes as occurring in large numbers in the last days of the world. And the early revelations of the Promised Messiah also abound in references to earthquakes. For instance, one of the revelations, received as early as 1884, runs thus: "God shall clear His apostle of all the charges which they lay against him for he is an exalted servant of the Lord. Is not God sufficient unto His servant? The Lord shall appear on the mountain, making it into fragments: He shall destroy all the machinations of the disbelievers." (*Braheen-i-Ahmadiyya*, part IV, page 516.) Another revelation, given in the *Braheen-i-Ahmadiyya*, runs to this effect: "The time is at hand when the Lord shall appear on the mountain, making it into fragments, God shall bring this about by His omnipotence for the sake of His servant." (*Braheen-i-Ahmadiyya*, part IV, page 557)

The Terrible Earthquake of 1905

Then, as in the knowledge of God the time appointed for these earthquakes drew near, the revelations descending on the Promised Messiah grew more emphatic and more definite in

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character. The first revelation of this nature is that which relates to the dreadful earthquake that occurred in the North-west of India on April 4, 1905, laying in ruins the beautiful and prosperous valley of Kangra. In December, 1903, came the revelation: "An earthquake shock." (*Alhakam* 24th Dec, 1903.) Again on 1st June, 1904: "A terrible earthquake that shall lay in ruins both permanent dwelling-houses and temporary residences." (*Al-Badr*, 1904, No 20-21.) In this revelation is given not only the general destruction that was to ensue from the impending catastrophe, but also the precise place that was to suffer the brunt of the shock. The expression "permanent dwelling-houses and temporary residences" clearly shows that the calamity foretold was to levy its heaviest toll of destruction in a hill station, for it is there that people go temporarily during the heat of the summer. And Dharmsala and Palampur, which suffered most severely in the earthquake of 1905, are precisely the places of this description. In this way God informed the Promised Messiah full fifteen months before-hand of the coming catastrophe when nobody could possibly conceive of it. Nor is this all. A few days after this, that is some ten months before the tragedy actually happened, in order to emphasize the devastation that was to result from it, the following revelation was received on June 8, 1904: "A terrible earthquake shall lay in ruins both permanent dwelling-houses and temporary residences. But I shall protect you from all harm as well as those who live within the four walls of your house." (*Alhakam*, 1904, No. 19-20.) Here in addition to repeating the news of the previous prophecy, a definite immunity from every kind of harm is promised to the Promised Messiah and to his followers.

Then on the night between 26th and 27th February, 1905, the Promised Messiah saw in a vision frightful sufferings and devastation, and pitiful cryings and lamentations of people in agonies; then the revelation came: "Death on all sides." (*Alhakam*, Vol. 19, No 10.) This revelation foretold that besides the loss to property, there would result also a heavy loss to life in the coming earthquake. It may here be contended that the wordings of the above prophecy, speaking of the

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devastation by death, may equally well be applied to mortality by plague as in those days plague was raging in the country. But all doubt of this kind is removed by a latter revelation that came down on April 1, 1905, which runs to this effect: "We have postponed the sending down of the fires of hell for a brief period. (*Al-Badr*, 1905, Vol. 1, No .1) That is to say there would be no more outbreak of plague for some time to come in the land, and that the calamity foretold in the revelations would be of a different kind from the above scourge." Then finally, on April 3, that is only one day before the calamitous event actually occured, the revelation came down: "Death stands at the door." (*Al-Badr*, 1905, Vol. 1, No 1.) This prophecy meant that the calamity was just going to take place. So on the following day, that is on April 4, 1905, the catastrophe burst forth A fearful earthquake, which had no parallel in the whole history of India, wrought in the twinkling of an eye a frightful havoc in the affected area. As foretoled in the prophecy, it exacted its heaviest toll in the ill-fated Kangra valley, where the hill-stations of Dharmsala and Palampur were completely devastated The loss of life and property was appalling. According to the Government *communiques*, hundreds of thousands of buildings were wrecked and about twenty thousand lives were lost (*vide C & M Gazette*, January 17, 1934). But by the grace of God, as He had promised in advance in the prophecy, not a single Ahmadi lost his life.

Every fair-minded person will admit that this catastrophe was a most remarkable heavenly sign, and a glowing testimony to the truth of the Promised Messiah. God informed the Promised Messiah beforehand of the nature and character of the catastrophe, the place which it was to visit, the details of the destruction to be caused by it, the time of its occurrence and of the complete immunity of the Ahmadies from the devastation and loss to be wrought by it. And everything happend exactly as had been predicted in the divine revelation. But, as God Himself deplores in the Holy Quran, the attitude of the people in general towards God's messengers being always

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one of mocking indifference and heedlessness, the above warning did not produce any very deep impression on men's minds. The disbelivers in God's Messiah and Mahdi still remained unconvinced and sceptical, and they still ridiculed him, even more so perhaps than before.

Prophecies about Future Earthquakes

So God decided to send down more and yet greater afflictions, so that men might take a warning and attend to the voice of His holy apostle. He revealed to the Promised Messiah that there would come yet more earthquakes in divers parts of the world, more dreadful and more devastating than anything that had hitherto been experienced by the world, some of which would resemble the Day of Judgment in their severity. On April 8, 1905, this revelation came down: "Yet another and fresh sign: there shall come an earthquake as terrible and devastating as doomsday. O ye men, fly for refuge. Truth, coming, shall put falsehood to rout." (*Al-Inzar*, April 8, 1905.) Again, on April 9 and 10: "We shall soon show a great sign in your favour: We shall destroy and level with the ground all their buildings." (*Al-Badr*, No. 2, 1905.) Again, on April 15: "I shall come to your help suddenly and without warning with my mighty hosts." (*Al-Badr*, No. 3, 1905.) This last revelation has been repeated quite a number of times. Then again, on the same 15th April, the Promised Messiah had this dream: "A great earthquake has occurred, which appeared to be more terrible than the last one." Then again, after three days, on the night of April 18, he had this dream: "A mighty earthquake has occurred, and the earth, rent and torn, is being blown into the air like cotton being carded." Then again, on the 23rd of the same month this revelation was received: "An earthquake has occurred, a most terrible earthquake." (*Badr* 1905, No. 4.) Again on May 23, 1905: "The earth has been overturned." (*Badr* 1905, No. 7.) On August 23: "The mountain toppled down and an earthquake followed. Do you know who I am? I am God, and I exalt whom I please, and disgrace whom I please." (*Badr* 1905, No. 21.) On September

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13: "I shall destroy towns and cities and efface them from earth's surface even as men have effaced my name from their hearts." (*Badr* 1905, No. 24.) On March 14, 1906: "I shall show the flash of my signs five times. That is five earthquakes will be most prominent." (*Badr* 1906, No. 13.) On May 14, came the revelation: "Have you received the tidings of the earthquake? The time comes when a terrible shaking shall seize the earth and make it throw out all its contents. Then men will ask wonderingly, 'What is the matter with the earth?'" (*Badr* 1906, No. 20.) On August 12, 1906: "Rivers would flow in the courtyards of the houses and then there will follow earthquakes." (*Badr* 1906, No 33.) On March 19, 1907: "I have decided to give the earth a spell of earthquakes." On March 24: "I will overturn millions of men," that is, this spell of earthquakes with which God would afflict the earth would spread devastation and death in the world and hundreds of thousands of lives would be lost. (*Badr*, 1907, No. 13.) Again, on May 12, 1907, this revelation was received: "Men shall weep with sorrow at the sight of these towns and cities." (*Badr*, 1907, No 20.) Besides these, there are many other revelations and dreams of the Promised Messiah that speak of earthquakes. Some of these were to occur in his lifetime, and some after his death. Moreover, he had also had some prophetic visions wherein he saw earthquakes actually happening. All these he has described in his writings. One of these, as given in a poem is as follows:

> "A devastation, wholly unparalleled in history, shall overtake towns and villages. In the twinkling of an eye all places where hitherto felicity and pleasure reigned shall be converted into scenes of desolation and mourning. Grand and magnificent places, fair and stately mansions shall suffer destruction and become dusty heaps of ruins, and countless lives shall be lost. Never having seen anything like it in all your life before, you can form no conception of this frightful calamity. But I have seen it all in a vision, and the dreadful sight is still haunting my eyes unceasingly.—(*Durr-i-Sameen.*)

Again:

> "All the world knows of the earthquakes that occurred some time ago in San Francisco and Formosa in accordance with my prophecies. But the earthquake which occurred in

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Chile (South America) on August 16, 1906, was fully as terrible and as devastating as any the world has ever seen. It laid in ruins as many as fifteen towns, both small and great. Thousands lost their lives, while tens of thousands were rendered homeless. Some ignorant people may perhaps object that these earthquakes cannot form any proof of my truth as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, since they have not occurred in the Punjab. But they must remember that as God is not only the Creator of the Punjab but of the whole world, so also His revelations relate to the whole world and not to any one country. Bear in mind that Almighty God has informed me of earthqaukes in general. Know it for certain then, that as earthquakes have come in America, Europe and Asia in accordance with my former prophecies, more will yet occur in diverse places, some of which would be so severe that the destruction wrought by them would resemble the destruction of the Judgment Day. Death will make such havoc that streams of blood would flow. In fact, so great would be the destruction on the earth's surface as the world has not witnessed before. Many places shall be turned upside down and present such scene of destruction that one would think they had never been inhabited. Other calamities of a terrible nature from earth as well as heaven would come upon men, so that the wise men will be convinced of their extraordinariness. Then will men in great bewilderment begin to ask themselves what was going to happen. Many shall be saved and many shall be destroyed. The days are near, nay, they are at the door, when the world shall see an unparalleled scene of devastation. Not only will great earthquakes come, but other calamities from heaven and earth will also visit the earth. All this will be brought about because men have forsaken God, and with all their hearts and all their souls they are bent upon the world. Had I not come, these calamities would also have been put off for a while, but with my appearance the secret designs of the wrath of God have been made manifest, for He says that 'punishment is not sent, until a Messenger is raised.' Those who repent shall be saved and those who show fear before the calamity comes shall be shown mercy. Do you think that you can be saved by your own plans. That cannot be. Do you think that severe earthquakes have come in distant places in America and your country will be safe, for I see that greater distress is in store for you. Thou, O Europe art not safe, nor thou O Asia ! and ye that dwell in islands ! No self-made diety will assist you on that day. I see cities falling down and I find inhabited places in ruins. The Omnipotent God has kept silence for a long time while detestable deeds were done in His sight, but now He will show His face with great awe. Let him who has ears hear that that time is not distant. I strove hard to gather men under the protection of

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God, but it was necessary that the writing of Fate should have been fulfilled. I say to you truly that the turn of this country is drawing near. The days of Noah will be before your eyes and the scene of Lot's earth you will see with your own eyes. But God is slow in sending His wrath. Repent that mercy may be shown to you. He who forsakes God is a worm, not a man, and he who does not fear Him is dead, not living." (*Haqiqatul Wahy*, pp. 256-7.)

The terrible visitations of Heaven as described in the above prophetic passage are too clear to require any further comment. As stated in the prophecy, it was indeed foreordained that all these things should take place even as they had been foretold, and that divers parts of the world should suffer destruction through earthquakes, some of them being so disastrous as to remind one of the end of all things. Some of these earthquakes took place in the lifetime of God's Messiah and Mahdi such as those that occurred in north-west India, in West-Indies, in Formosa, in San Francisco, and in Chile, all of which were so extraordinary in their nature that the well-known daily English paper, *The Pioneer* of Allahbad, in its issue dated April 22, 1906, wrote thus in sheer amazement :

"It would be hard to parallel such havoc since the first century A D."

Again the *Civil and Military Gazette* of Lahore, in its issue of February 7, 1907, wrote thus :

The calamitous earthquake in Jamaica following so soon upon the prodigious chapter of similar catastrophies furnished by 1906 has set everybody thinking about the insecurity of the old earth's crust. What with volcanic eruptions and earthquakes the world is manifestly in a very unsatisfactory condition. An eminent seismologist, deeply impressed by the number of shocks he has had to register of late, calls it 'earth unrest.' This is a constation as the French say, but no explanation. What we should like very much to know—not that the knowledge would help us much—is why the earth should be so restless. Although it would be difficult to apply bromide or other sedatives to the nerves of even a little planet like ours, a mere grain of sand in the universal system, it would be well to know what is going on beneath us, because this would give us a chance of preparing for the worst. The crust of this ancient earth, which is perhaps still too young for our security, is not

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a re-assuring spectacle when we come to examine it. We see on all sides evidence of a frightful St. Vitus's dance in prehistoric times, and also of a tendency of things that happened in a remote past to come again. In the days when earthquakes, of which any news was received, were few and volcanoes were all well-behaved except in very outlandish places, we flattered ourselves that the earth had become a very safe place of residence when ordinary precautions were taken. Now we know that it is extremely unsafe. If there were only a way of moving ourselves and chattels to a more stable planet, the rents on this one would go down with a run. It is unfortunate that we cannot change our lodgings."

In short, soon after God's revelation to the Promised Messiah regarding seismic shocks, earthquakes began, in his very lifetime, to afflict different parts of the world, some of them being extremely destructive in their effects; others equally severe have happened since his death, as those occuring in Italy, in Japan, and in China, while there are others that are still to come hereafter. But as to when they will exactly happen and how destructive they will be, God only knows.

Special Features of the Bihar Earthquake

But of all the earthquakes that have so far happened in fulfilment of the Promised Messiah's prophecies, the most disasterous and devastating in its effects is the one that has just occurred on the 15th of January last. It has wrought unparalleled havoc in Bihar and Orissa, in the Nepal State, and in parts of Bengal. The prophecies as well as the dreams of the Promised Messiah team with references to this earthquake, and they are as clear and unmistakable as are those that relate to the earthquake of 1905, occuring in North-west India. The former are, in fact, if possible, even more explicit, more specific, and contain more detailed description of the tragedy than do the latter, so much so, indeed, that it seems as if God's own unerring finger were pointing towards it Among these numerous indications the following five points stand out clearly and they deserve to be particularly noted :

1. The earthquake would be particularly devastating and destructive in its effects.

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2. It would occur shortly after the assassination of Nadir Shah, the King of Afghanistan.

3 It would occur in the spring season.

4. The part of the country chiefly affected by it would be the North-east of India.

5. It would occur in the lifetime of Mirza Bashir Ahmad, the writer of these lines, who would be the first to draw the attention of the public to the prophecy of the Promised Messiah regarding this calamity.

The Earthquake Characterized by Floods

The first great feature of this earthquake, according to the prophecies of the Promised Messiah, is that it would be marked by exceptional intensity and would spread terrible devastation in the affected area, and that it would be accompanied by great floods of water. As far as its destructive nature is concerned, it is described in all the prophecies quoted above. This earthquake forming as it does one of the series of the seismic shocks spoken of in the foregoing prophecies, this same description, regarding their destructiveness, is applicable to them all in common. But there is one prophetic vision of the Promised Messiah, speaking of the two-fold havoc to be caused by earthquake and floods, which refers exclusively to this earthquake. It runs :

> "Awake ! awake ! you lazy ones, for this is no time for sleep ; God's holy revelation has imparted a piece of news which has filled my heart with grief.
>
> "A fearful earthquake, says the prophecy, will anon upheave and convulse the earth ; The time is nigh at hand when terrible floods will deluge the land." (*An-nida*, April 21, 1905.)

These prophetic lines, in the clearest possible terms foretell that in the near future a most terrible earthquake would come and work a great havoc in the affected area, and that, strange as it might seem, it would be accompanied by disasterous floods of water. Furthermore, the wordings of the prophecy

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show that the earthquake would precede the floods. But this does not mean that the two would be separate calamities. Their mention with each other in the same prophecy clearly shows that, though coming one after the other, they would not be separated from each other by any very lengthy interval, and that they would both in fact form but a single calamity. And as everyone knows this is exactly what has happened in the earthquake that shook and convulsed Bihar and Orissa on the 15th of January last. First, there came the earthquake which shook the earth so terribly that huge fissures and cracks appeared in the ground. As a result of these openings, water gushed out with great force and inundated the land for miles and miles around, until the whole countryside looked like one vast sea. The well-known English daily of India, *The Statesman*, referring to this feature of the situation in its issue of January 18, says :

> "When the earthquake came large fissures appeared in the ground and water spouted out everywhere and spread until the whole district is at least five feet under water."

Similarly, describing the effects of the earthquake, the daily *Zamindar* of Lahore, in its issue dated January 25, writes :

> " In many places the ground has cracked and yawned open with the result that large springs of water gushing out of the earth have inundated the whole landscape. The entire town is under water and presents the appearance of a vast surging sea."

In addition to the waters gushing out of the earth, soon after the earthquake torrential rains fell, so that the earthquake, the deluges of the earth, and the deluges of the heaven, all three combined their forces and presented a terrible spectacle of God's vengeance. Once again the words of the Promised Messiah's prophecy that " in the courtyards of the houses shall run rivers of water and then shall follow earthquakes " (*Haqiqat-nl-Wahy* page 364) have met with a literal fulfilment.

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Explaining the above prophecy in the *Haqiqatul Wahy*, the Promised Messiah writes: "God had revealed to me that heavy rains would fall, causing the houses to be gutted with water. Then, earthquakes will follow." This prophecy, as I have already said, has met with complete fulfilment in the case of this devastating earthquake of the 15th of January last. Every one knows that towards the end of the last rainy season unusually heavy rains fell which caused serious floods in many parts of the country, including the Rohtak district, in the Punjab, the valley of the Gomty river, parts of the U. P., Midnapur, Bihar and Orissa. That Bihar heavily suffered from floods towards the end of 1933 is a well-known fact. Close upon the heels of these floods came this new and wholly unexpected calamity of the earthquake as a result of which huge chasms and fissures appeared in the ground, releasing the pent-up furies of the subterranean waters of the earth. These waters, reinforced by the deluges of the skies, became powerful allies of the earthquake, and the three of them together scourged the whole striken area in the most frightful manner.

Details of Devastation

As to the loss of life and property, caused by this earthquake it is a heart-rending and soul-harrowing tale of death and destruction. It is not yet possible to tell accurately the total number of the lives lost. The Government has tried to give certain figures from time to time but all these afterwards proved to be wrong. In reality, no exact figures at all can be given. Where whole towns and villages have been wiped out of existence, where thousands and thousands of houses and buildings have totally collapsed, including the houses of the middle classes, the mud-huts of the poor, the grand and stately edifices and spacious bungalows of the rich, the Government buildings, large factories and workshops, busy market-places, and whole rows of shops, and all being converted into dusty heaps of ruins, with the dead and putrifying bodies of the unfortunate inmates lying inextricably buried beneath the *debris*, how can one tell correctly as to how many lives have been lost?

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The whole affected area presents a spectacle of utter death and annihilation. Monghyr, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Khatmandu, and many other places of lesser note have, as it were, disappeared from the map. What remains presents a woeful spectacle of desolation and ruin. It was a strange earthquake. At first the tremors passed length-wise across the surface of the earth, then all of a sudden the whole earth seemed to have been gripped by a terrible rotatory motion, as if a colossal mill, located somewhere in the interior of the earth, had been set spinning at a mad pace by some furious giant hand It was as if the armies of God's angels had come down and were pulverizing everything into powder.

Great as was the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake of 1905, it was nothing as compared with that which has resulted from the present cataclysm The whole striken area in this case, being comprised of a fertile and well populated region, the loss of life and property is necessarily very high. At the lowest computation, millions and millions of rupees worth of property has deen destroyed. It is on account of this heavy loss that here in India, besides many of the Indian leaders of note, His Excellency the Viceroy, the Governors of the different provinces, the Rulers of the Indian States and the general public; and outside of India, His Majesty the King, the Secretary of State for India, the Lord Mayor of London, and the Presidents and Ministers of several foreign countries, and many other prominent persons have opened relief funds for the earthquake victims, and have themselves made generous contributions in this connection

In short it was an unparalleled calamity The loss of life and the damage to property which it has caused are incalculably heavy. Every estimate that has so far been attempted as to the loss sustained by the affected area as a whole falls far short of the actual reality. In order to give the reader an idea of this catastrophe and of the extent of the devastation it has wrought, I give below some extracts from the press, taken from the papers of all communities and religions in the country.

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The *Aljamiat* of Delhi, dated January 24, 1934, writes :

" According to the reports so far received, of all the places within the affected area the heaviest loss of life and property has been suffered by the towns and cities of the Bihar province, including chiefly Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Lahria, Sarai, Monghyr, Jamalpur, Gaya, Batia, Tirhut, Porina, Posa, Samastipur, Saran, Champaren, Motihari, Sahibganj, Sitamarhi, Chapra, Janaitpur, Hajipur, Deghi, Ara, and many other lesser towns and villages. As regards Monghyr, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur, they have been completely destroyed. In Monghyr, only four houses remain standing. In Patna, no building has been found which has not been destroyed either wholly or in part. In the former town, thousands of dead bodies have been extricated from beneath the *debris*, while thousands more are still lying beneath the heaps of bricks and mortar and the iron girders.

In the towns and in the country, the earth cracked and large fissures and rents appeared in the ground out of which large streams of subterranean waters gushed out. In some places chasms of hundreds of feet in diameter appeared through which for hours together large jets of boiling water shot up to the height of twenty feet and more into the air. This caused such heavy floods all over the surrounding area that even those places which had always hitherto been marked by scarcity of water throughout the year, became seven feet deep lakes of water. Near Patna, the waters of the Ganges completely disappeared for five minutes, leaving its bed dry. At the end of five minutes the river became suddenly flooded with water and began to flow with great force. From the deep ravines, sulphur and sand discharged in large quantities. The crops have been completely destroyed, and whole villages have become submerged under water. Outbreaks of fire also wrought great destruction. In Monghyr and in Muzaffarpur, thousands of dead bodies of those who had perished were, irrespective of caste or creed, thrown into the Ganges. Those who have survived the disaster have been rendered homeless and destitute and are in the most pitiable condition imaginable."

The Statesman, Delhi, in its issue of 20th January, writes :

" The Maharaja of Darbhanga's Palace is reduced to an unrecognisable heap."

The *Civil & Military Gazette* of Lahore, in its issue of February 9, writes :

" The tower and several walls of Anandbagh palace have collapsed, and the remaining walls damaged ; Nurgawana

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palace and Motimahal palace, are in ruins ; Rajnagar, on which the late Maharaja spent a crore of rupees, is a deserted village, wrecked and ruined. Such is the fate of the Darbhanga palaces as a result of the recent earthquake as described in a Darbhanga communique. The Maharaja of Darbhanga's total loss is roughly estimated at Rs. 5 crores."

The *Searchlight* of Patna, in its issue dated the 29th of January, writes :

" On the 15th of January, simultaneously with the earthquake, fire discharged through the holes caused in the ground, and destroyed both of the villages of Akdharm and Nathu."

In its issue of January 18, the *Haqiqat* of Lucknow writes :

" A terrible destruction has overtaken Khatmandu which no words can describe. The Amarathoi Hill, in the range of mountains that run from Ramnagar to Khatmandu, has cleft from top to bottom, as a result of which a strange hole has appeared in it. At the bottom of this opening, a spring of boiling and whirling water has suddenly appeared. From this spring, a strange kind of dangerous vapours are rising up, so dangerous that no one can go near them.

" Three of the royal palaces, which were such marvels of architectural beauty that even European engineers were struck with wonder to see them, have been destroyed. What is still more deplorable, a huge fissure has appeared in the road going thither which has put a stop to all communications for the time being. It is feared that it will take some days before communications can be restored. Though much devastation has been caused in the Nepal State, and many thousands of lives have been lost, the most marvellous thing that has resulted from this catastrophe is that many springs that were perennially bubbling with water have now completely disappeared.

"Kolahmandi, Nepalganj, and Bhaknathori also all present a mournful sight of devastation and ruin. All bazars have collapsed and a deep sepulchral silence and frightful desolation reign. Nepalganj, which contained rich godowns of merchandise, has suffered particularly heavily, all its stores having been destroyed. Its loss in property runs into lakhs of rupees.

"The mountaneous parts of the country have suffered most heavily. To say nothing of human beings, even the beasts of the jungle seem to have become shocked out of their senses, so that, instead of running away from human beings, they now run towards them."

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The daily *Milap* of Lahore, in its issue dated February 1, writes :

> " In the Nepal valley almost all the houses and buildings have collapsed. In Khatmandu, in many places in the plains and in the mountains deep fissures have appeared. Two daughters of the Maharajah, his grand-daughter, his cousin, with his wife and two children, have died."

According to the *Civil and Military Gazette*, dated the 9th February, the traffic manager of the Bengal Railway says :

> " It is not easy to realise the full significance of a complete paralysis of communications—roads gone, railways gone, telegraph gone, vast areas of country flooded and practically impassable; in the immediate panic-striken vicinity only chaos and despair, and beyond only silence and a great fear."

The *Daily Zamindar* of Lahore, in its issue of January 25, writes :

> "The dreadful havoc which the earthquake of the 15th January has wrought in different parts of the Bihar province has no parallel whatever in all the history of India.

In this unfortunate province, so far besides men, thousands of women and children have perished. Crores of rupees worth property has suffered destruction and become dust with dust. Valuable household furnitures, which had taken generations to acquire and collect together, and many other treasured possessions and family heirlooms of these people, now lie destroyed and buried beneath tons and tons of *debris*. Whole towns and cities have become levelled with the ground and turned into mounds of ruins; large tracts of the country have become converted into deserts and waste lands. No foodstuffs and no eatables of any kind are to be had for miles and miles around, nor have the luckless people a shred of clothing left on their backs to protect their nude and shivering bodies from the inclemencies of the wheather."

The daily *Pratab* of Lahore, in its issue of January 26, writes :

> "Reports coming from Bihar and Orissa are full of harrowing tales. According to the people who have escaped

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with their lives and fled from the striken area and come over to Allahbad, the damage caused to property in the towns of Monghyr, Muzaffarpur, Chopra, Sitamuri, and Darbhanga amounts to something like twenty crores of rupees. As to the loss of life, no fewer than twenty thousand lives have been lost in Monghyr alone. On 22nd January alone, under Government arrangements, as many as three thousand dead bodies were burned up. In all the above towns, all the bazaars have been so completely destroyed that not a trace of them is to be found. The towns are choked with corpses and with torn limbs of dead bodies, all giving out such a terrible stench that it is no longer possible to stay there."

The special correspondent of the *Amritabazar Patrika* writes from Monghyr, "In the affected area nearly one hundred thousand head of cattle have perished A commercial traveller who has just come from Muzaffarpur and was present there at the time of the earthquake, reports that during the shock torn human limbs, such as heads, legs, arms, hands and feet, rained down in scores from the roofs and upper storeys of the surrounding houses The lamentations and the groans of the victims were so frightful to hear that he was unnerved with fear He saw men leaping down from the windows of upper storeys but, before they could reach the ground, the walls of the houses collapsed and they were buried beneath the heaps of *debris*. The terrible rainfall of the torn and mutilated human limbs continued. Near Gaya, there was a small river, named Phalgar, which has completely disappeared, its place having been occupied by large dunes of sands. No one knows where the river has gone. On the other hand, there were several other streams in the neighbourhood, whose beds were always dry in this season of the year. They are now full of water!"

The *Inqilab*, 2nd February, publishes an account given by an eyewitness of the tragedy in Monghyr:

"At precisely five minutes past two in the afternoon, as I was going along the bazaar, I heard a curious noise as of a mammoth aeroplane approaching After a few seconds, a queer sort of tremors and tremblings passed through my body, and then the earth rocked twice violently sideways, first to the